

Richmond Dispatch.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1877.

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, falling followed by rising barometer, fresh to brisk southerly and westerly winds, and partly cloudy weather are probable, with light rains and snow in the former and northern portion of the latter.

For the South Atlantic and Gulf States, generally higher barometer, variable winds, warmer, clear, or partly cloudy weather, and a few showers of rain, or drizzle, are indicated, and followed in Texas by falling barometer.

For Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and Lake region, rising followed by slowly falling barometer, winds mostly westerly and southerly, clear, warmer, and partly cloudy weather, with a few showers of rain, or drizzle, or snow in the latter part of the week.

For the Canal region of Indiana, Ohio, and the Middle States, the temperature will generally continue above freezing Tuesday night.

Cautionary signals are ordered for Eastport, Portland, Thatchers Island, Boston, Wood's Hole, Newport, Sandy Hook, and Cape May.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear and cool.

Thermometer yesterday: 6 A. M., 30; 9 A. M., 34; noon, 50; 3 P. M., 53; 6 P. M., 49; midnight, 40.

LOCAL MATTERS.

LEGISLATIVE.—It is understood that the S. P. readers—on at least several of their leaders—desire to have the election of Capitol officers postponed until about the first of March, in order that they may have full time to prepare for the contest.

The House Committee on Finance yesterday appointed a sub-committee of five, with W. T. Taliaferro as chairman, to investigate the basement offices. The view is to ascertain the pay, hours of business, &c., &c., for the purpose of determining whether any reform in the manner of conducting business can be made which will ensure to the benefit of the Treasury.

It is hinted that a sharp communication will shortly appear from the Treasurer responsive to the statement of General Rogers in the \$35,000 double-funding transaction.

Mr. J. J. MacKinnon, of the American Bonding, Insurance, and Banking Association of London (Limited), who some years ago dallied with Governor Kemper about refunding our debt, and then got in jail, is in Tennessee teaching finance to the S. P. readers of that State. Several northern newspapers have recently seen fit to publish his views on the subject.

Mr. J. J. MacKinnon, in which his exploits in Richmond were duly commented upon.

Judge B. W. Lay's case is before the House Committee on Privileges and Elections, and the signs are very favorable to him.

The House Committee for Courts of Justice have been instructed to inquire whether or not Dr. Pollard, the gentleman acting as Commissioner of Agriculture, is legally entitled to do so. The Governor appointed and the Senate confirmed Dr. Pollard two or three months before the law creating the office became operative. The newspapers found out the blunder and informed the Capitol and the public.

Dr. Pollard, however, did not qualify until the law became operative. Then the Attorney-General advised him that he had no right to do so under the provision allowing the Governor to fill vacancies, &c.

The average statesman in the Legislature, as elsewhere, when he gets excited, says many things that he ought not to say, and neglects to say many things that he ought to say. Indeed, would he be so foolish as to divide his burden of responsibility with the reporters.

DASHING THROUGHBREDS.—Dr. Matthews, of Manchester, has recently exchanged a single-horse team for a double one, and the new pair of thoroughbreds have the reputation of being about the best travelers in the Free State. Yesterday afternoon the horses, attached to a light doctor's buggy, were standing on Governor street, near Oscar Crano's, while Dr. Matthews had gone into one of the stores near by to make some purchases. A small boy stood on the curbstone watching them, and when a sudden dash was made by the Governor street break-necked speed. "Whoa!" was a cry of alarm, and fast furious the horses ran, while every one rushed to the street to see what was the matter. They made straight for the building of the Bank of the Commonwealth, corner of Main and Thirteenth streets, turning not to the right nor to the left. Mr. John B. Davis, the president of the bank, happened to be out at the time. Cashier M. S. Quarles saw the thoroughbreds coming toward the bank, and he started to get out of the corner window at the curb at the corner would stop them. Not so, for crash went the great plate-glass on the main floor, and smash went the glass in the basement. One of the horses ran his head through the window, while the other tried to get out of the bank by the corner door. The bank officers were panic-stricken. Mr. Gosden hid himself in the vault. Mr. Canthorn and Mr. Battelle, both horsemen, gave an awful shudder, and Mr. Simon, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Steed cried out in their fright, though after it was over Mr. Steed made the facetious pun that "one steed was enough for any bank."

The plate-glass was very thick and expensive, and was handsomely lettered with the bank sign.

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAIR.—The ladies of this church will open to-night in the lecture-room a sale of useful and fancy articles and refreshments. They hope to realize enough to extinguish a great part of their church debt, which is not large. Of the goods, they bespeak the aid of their friends and all in search of good and useful things for Christmas time.

PERSONAL.—Colonel Thomas F. Goode, of Mecklenburg, being very feeble, health, is spending the winter at Gainesville, Fla. General Pridmore, Mr. C., was at the Capitol yesterday. Before leaving Washington he conferred with General Randolph of Tennessee.

Senator J. W. Daniel and Major Thomas J. Kirkpatrick arrived yesterday. Mr. D. T. McComb, formerly of this city, but now division freight agent of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis railway, with headquarters at Chicago, Ill., is on a visit to his friends in this city.

Major B. F. Eakie, for many years connected with the Exchange Hotel and Baltimore House, for the past six seasons in charge of the office at Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, is again associated in the management of the above hotel.

SENTENCED.—In the Hastings Court, yesterday, Joseph Meekins, convicted of forging the name of Alfred R. Courtney—his term of imprisonment having been previously fixed at four years in the penitentiary—was sentenced by Judge Guilgon in accordance with the finding of the jury. The Court allowed him fifteen days in which to appeal to the Supreme Court.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

A Proposition Looking to a Railroad Up the James-River Valley.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS—BRIDGE OVER THE BASIN—GRADE OF STREETS—BUSINESS FROM THE COMMON COUNCIL—THE DAMAGES TO THE CANAL—THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION ASKING THE LEGISLATURE TO PERMIT THE CITY TO ADD THE CANAL IN \$25,000 DEFERRED A NEW SCHEME—A PROPOSITION TO BUILD A RAILROAD TO CLIFTON FORGE, &c., &c.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held yesterday afternoon at 7 o'clock, at the residence of the Mayor, present at roll-call: Messrs. Bass, Beall, Cannon, Forester, Gray, Gasser, Pitt, Pickrell, Scott, Todd, and Williams.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—Mr. Todd, from the Committee on Streets, presented joint resolutions appropriating the following sums from the street fund for the improvements named—viz., \$327 to place granite curbing on east side of First Street, from Clay and Lombard streets, \$425 to curb curbing on west side of Laurel street from Floyd to Main street. Agreed to.

Also, a resolution transferring \$1,237 from sewer fund to street fund to reimburse that fund for amount expended for the construction of a sewer on Brook avenue between Broad and Marshall streets, pending an application for an appropriation for sewer purposes.

Mr. Cannon moved to refer to the Finance Committee this last resolution in relation to the sewer.

The report was agreed to. Also, a resolution directing the Auditor to transfer the balances remaining to the credit of the account of hands and carts, pay-rolls, and roller and crusher, and of the hands and carts, and carts, streets generally. The Auditor is further empowered to pay the pay-rolls of the hands and carts and roller and crusher from the account of streets generally thus consolidated.

Mr. Cannon moved to refer to the Finance Committee this last resolution in relation to the sewer.

The resolution was discussed at some length. The motion to refer was lost.

Mr. Todd moved to suspend the rules, so that the Board might take up the resolution.

Mr. Cannon demanded the yeas and noes, and being taken, the Board refused to adopt the resolution—yeas, 7; noes, 6.

The resolution was then referred to the Finance Committee with authority to report to the Board.

The committee reported that they had received the following bids for bridge over the basin: James Netherwood, \$11,000; R. J. Black, wooden bridge, stone piers, rubble work, \$12,000; M. Meahan, treated bridge, stone piers, rubble work, \$10,000; M. Meahan, wood and stone piers and abutments, \$8,000; M. Meahan, brace bridge, stone abutments and piers, \$6,000.

The committee recommended the building of a bridge, and awarding the contract to James Netherwood. The committee say, in this connection, that the president of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad Company expressed his opinion that if the bridge was built by the city his company and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company would build a handsome passenger-depot on his company's property at the southwest corner of Byrd and Ninth streets, where there was ample space (the street being practically 100 feet wide at this point) for back-stacks, removed from the city, and the Richmond and Potomac Railroad Company would unite in using the depot at this point for their passenger-depot. Also, all of which are objects very desirable to be obtained.

The committee presented the following resolution to carry out these views: Resolved, That the Committee on Streets generally be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to contract with James Netherwood for the construction of a stone-arch bridge over the basin at Ninth street according to the plans, specifications, and bids submitted to the City Engineer and adopted by said committee; and the Committee on Finance is hereby directed to provide for the same.

Mr. Todd also presented a resolution adopting certain grades for streets in various parts of the city; which, on motion of Mr. Cannon, was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Scott, from the Committee on Finance, presented a resolution refusing to pay Mr. H. Watkins \$4.46 for erroneous assessment. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Todd the resolution of the Committee on Streets establishing the grades for the streets in various parts of the city, and the grades published in the Dispatch, was taken up.

On motion of Mr. Todd, Mr. J. L. Apperson, representing persons opposed to the change in the grades, was permitted to address the body in opposition to the change.

Mr. Apperson was addressed by the Board, and a resolution was made and carried to lay the matter on the next regular meeting, when the matter will be disposed of.

Petitions in opposition to the proposed change were presented and referred to the Committee on Streets.

FROM THE COMMON COUNCIL.—Common Council joint resolution for relief of persons suffering from the late flood was taken up, and the Board failed to concur in the resolution.

Common Council joint resolution granting building permits to W. J. Bowe and others was taken up and concurred in.

Common Council joint resolution to pay expenses of the President's visit was taken up and concurred in.

Common Council joint resolution to pay judgment in favor of W. J. McDowell was taken up and concurred in.

Joint resolution from the Common Council transferring funds from coal account to pay-roll account of gas-works was taken up, and a resolution transferring \$2,500 from account of Fire Department to account of Fire Department pay-rolls was taken up and concurred in.

Common Council ordinance concerning demoralizing exhibitions, &c., was taken up, and on motion of Mr. Cannon, laid on the table.

THE PROPOSITION TO AID THE CANAL COMPANY.—Common Council joint resolution to amend the city charter with reference to the James River and Kanawha canal was taken up, and Mr. Cannon said he really did not see the use of entertaining the resolution this evening, although it had been sent here by the other branch of the city legislature, and had been credibly informed that a representative in the Legislature had already introduced and had passed in the House a bill amending the charter. One of the most important features of the charter was that preventing the Council from making any appropriation without the consent of the people. This feature it should be retained. The high value of our bonds in the market to-day was owing in a measure to this restriction. It was but a few days ago that the resolution passed the other branch, and notwithstanding the fact that that resolution was to be considered here, where all the people of the city are represented, a member of the House, who but a week ago was a member of the other branch, has presented and had pushed through the House a bill to amend the charter, and that bill is now in the Senate ready to be taken up as soon as it opens its doors. He for one never would have been willing to ask the Legislature for this power. With all respect to the gentlemen of the Council—tax-payers and others—who have as much interest in these matters as the members of the Council. These people ought to be consulted and their opinions considered. It was an unwarrantable proceeding to go to the Legislature to get a bill to amend the charter of our city. It ought to be stopped.

Mr. Cannon, in conclusion, said he thought it useless to pass the resolution, as the matter was already in the Legislature, and would offer the following as a substitute: Resolved by the Board of Aldermen, That the action of Joseph R. Anderson, one of the delegates from the city of Richmond to the General Assembly of Virginia, in introducing and hurrying through to its passage in the House of Delegates a bill to amend the charter of the city of Richmond, so as to permit the city of Richmond to subscribe \$25,000 to the repair of the James River and Kanawha canal, without a reference to the qualified voters of the city, in the manner provided for by law, and without the approval of this body, be and it is hereby annulled, and the Council is wholly unwarranted, tends to the subversion and destruction of the chartered rights of our people, and meets with our unqualified condemnation.

Mr. Meredith said it was just to say that he received a letter from General Anderson explaining his course. He presented the bill because the Common Council had by an almost unanimous vote passed it, and he did not see any reason to await formal action of the Board. The resolution of the body indicated the sense of the people of Richmond. He thought if the General had erred it was only an error of judgment, and he hoped the body would not pass Mr. Cannon's resolution, as he felt sure General Anderson's resolution did not mean any disrespect to the Board.

Mr. Pickrell agreed with Mr. Meredith. Perhaps Mr. Anderson had been over-zealous, but he felt sure he did not intend any disrespect to the body. He united in the hope that the resolution would be withdrawn.

Mr. Cannon said in deference to the wishes of the gentlemen who had spoken he would withdraw the resolution, but he would not retract in one jot or tittle of what he had said. He did not desire to put on the city a resolution containing any one, and he would therefore withdraw it.

On the question of agreeing to the resolution appropriating \$25,000 the yeas and noes were demanded, and being taken, the resolution was defeated by the following vote: Yeas, 6; noes, 10.

NEW BUSINESS.—Mr. Todd: A resolution transferring \$25 from the chairmen pay-rolls to expenses of the chairmen. Agreed to.

By the same: A resolution transferring \$600 from the City Hospital to Board of Health pay-roll. Agreed to.

By the same: An ordinance repealing section 5 of chapter 10, concerning the salaries of officers. This amendment proposes to repeal the section which prevents the Council from reducing salaries during the current year.

produced and had passed in the House a bill amending the charter. One of the most important features of the charter was that preventing the Council from making any appropriation without the consent of the people. This feature it should be retained. The high value of our bonds in the market to-day was owing in a measure to this restriction. It was but a few days ago that the resolution passed the other branch, and notwithstanding the fact that that resolution was to be considered here, where all the people of the city are represented,